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### Editorial

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*Editorial*

I am delighted to introduce the **13th edition of the ITB Journal**, the academic journal of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown.

Again, we have the usual diverse, but interesting, mix of papers. Software and hardware engineering is, however, the major theme within this issue.

Specifically, in this issue of the ITB Journal we have papers that present recent research work on virtual learning environments for Astronomy as part of the Virtual Telescopes in Education as undertaken by researchers from ITB and NUI Maynooth, leading edge engineering in the service of wheelchair navigation at UL, a critical review (also from UL) of System-On-Chip (SoC) designs containing multiple IP (Intellectual Property) cores and why it is not yet possible to apply generic test architectures to an IP core within a SoC, and ongoing work in ITB on a rapid prototyping system using SystemC. In particular, it looks at the suitability of using SystemC for rapid prototyping of embedded systems.

We hope that you enjoy the papers in this issue of the ITB Journal.

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